



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Police make multiple arrests for nitrous oxide distribution

Large amounts of cash, nitrous oxide tanks and vehicles also seized

Howard County Police have arrested 12 suspects for nitrous oxide possession and distribution at and around a Phish concert at Merriweather Post Pavilion over the weekend. Large amounts of cash, 32 nitrous oxide tanks and two vehicles were also seized as part of the investigation.

During patrols meant to suppress illegal drug activity, officers observed a team of suspects operating in the area around the concert venue and nearby parking lots. The organized group worked together to sell nitrous oxide, a chemical gas that produces mind-altering effects when inhaled.

The following suspects were arrested and charged with drug possession, possession with intent to distribute, possession for distribution, and paraphernalia possession: James Allen, 52, of Bronx, NY; Crystal Lynn Allison, 31, of Attleboro, MA; Nathaniel Banks, 23, of Providence, RI; Jose Miguel Curet, 24, of Lancaster, PA; Jim Henry Mackay, 32, of Attleboro, MA; Joseph Mondello, 34, of Manville, RI; Shawn Montrond, 22, of Providence, RI; Joshua Priest, 24, of Manheim, PA; Carmelo Rosario, 25, of Lancaster, PA; Carlos Ruiz, 25, of Bronx, NY; Victor Santos, 31, of Bronx, NY; Harry Rodriguez, 22, of Bronx, NY.

Police believe the suspects are members of an organized group that is known to travel the east coast distributing the drug at concerts.

Allison, Curet, Priest and Ruiz have posted bond. The remaining suspects are currently being held at the Howard County Detention Center on bond varying from \$5,000-10,000.

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